

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 OTPE-00 NSF-04 COME-00 EB-11

OIC-04 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 EA-11 FRB-02 INR-10

IO-14 NEA-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 OPIC-12 SPC-03 TRSE-00

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 DRC-01 /148 W

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P 081114Z FEB 74

FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1786

UNCLAS OECD PARIS 3476

DEPT PASS NBS, COMMERCE, OTP, NSF

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TPHY, OECD

SUBJECT: OECD COMPUTER UTILIZATION GROUP (CUG): MEETING OF
STEERING GROUP FOR CONFERENCE ON COMPUTER/COMMUNICATIONS POLICY
ISSUES, PARIS, FEB. 5, 1974

REF.: (A) STATE 021982; (B) DAS/SPR/73.105; (C) SPT/M(73)2

1. SUMMARY. SECRETARIAT WILL RESTRUCTURE REF B FOR NEXT
MEETING OF STEERING GROUP, FEB. 21-22, 1974, WHICH WILL BE
DRAFTING SESSION, WITH VIEW TO PREPARING PROGRAM DOCUMENT SUITABLE
FOR PRESENTATION TO CST, MARCH 19-20, 1974.

ACTION REQUIRED: SELECTION OF POLICY ISSUES (SEE BELOW).
END SUMMARY.

2. STEERING GROUP AGREED WITH US POSITION THAT
SECRETARIAT DOCUMENT STILL DOES NOT CLEARLY IDENTIFY POLICY
ISSUES APPROPRIATE FOR DISCUSSION AT SENIOR-LEVEL GOVERNMENT
POLICY BRIEFING. GROUP SURPRISED TO LEARN THAT CST HAS NOT
YET OFFICIALLY APPROVED HOLDING CONFERENCE, HAVING ONLY APPROVED
DESIRABILITY (SEE REF C, RECORD OF CST NOVEMBER 1973 MEETING,
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PARA 17). CONCERN THEREFORE EXPRESSED THAT MANDATE WAS GIVEN

TO SECRETARIAT AT DEC. 10, 1973 MEETING OF STEERING GROUP TO CONTACT POSSIBLE KEY SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS. FURTHER APPROACHES TO POSSIBLE US SPEAKERS WILL NOT BE MADE WITHOUT CONSULTING US-OECD. MATTERS OF CONTACTS WITH US INDIVIDUALS ALREADY MADE OR CONTEMPLATED BY SECRETARIAT WILL BE REPORTED BY ISTVAN.

3. GROUP ALSO ACCEPTED US VIEW THAT REF B PARAS 6-19 ONLY SERVE AS BACKGROUND. POLICY ISSUES ARE STILL TO BE SELECTED FROM LIST IN MATRIX, PAGES 9-10, WITH EXTRA ITEM ON "DISPARITIES IN AND AMONG COUNTRIES."

4. DISSATISFACTION EXPRESSED GENERALLY WITH PRESENT STRUCTURE OF REF B, SPECIFICALLY WITH LANGUAGE OF DESCRIPTIVE NOTES POLICY ISSUES, PAGES 11-12. SECRETARIAT THEREFORE CHARGED WITH REWRITE, ALONG FOLLOWING LINES: PREAMBLE; OBJECTIVES; MAIN POLICY AREAS (CHANGED FROM POLICY QUESTIONS PER US PROPOSAL); SPECIFIC ISSUES; BACKGROUND TOPICS; CONFERENCE STRUCTURE. MISSION WILL ASSIST SECRETARIAT IN RESHAPING DOCUMENT.

5. MAJOR ACTION REQUIRED BY US; (A) LIST POLICY ISSUES 1-13 PER MATRIX, PLUS ITEM ON "DISPARITIES"; (B) GIVE TERSE STATEMENTS ON COMPOSITION EACH ISSUE AS UNDERSTOOD BY US; (C) STATE IF ITEM, IN US VIEW, IS APPROPRIATE ISSUE FOR POLICY BRIEFING (NOT JUST INTERESTING TOPIC), WITH REASONS FOR ACCEPTING OR REJECTING; (D) SUGGEST WHERE ITEMS MIGHT BE COMBINED. NO ATTEMPT SHOULD BE MADE TO DISTRIBUTE ITEMS AMONG SESSIONS, WHICH WILL PROBABLY BE STRUCTURED IN TERMS OF JOHN RICHARDSON'S PROPOSED OUTLINE. ABOVE REQUIRED IN TIME FOR USE AT FEB 21-22 MEETING OF STEERING GROUP, WHICH WILL BE DRAFTING SESSION FOR FINAL DOCUMENT.

6. REGARDING DATE OF CONFERENCE, STEERING GROUP MAINTAINED PREFERENCE FOR END 1974. HOWEVER, SECRETARIAT ADMITTED THAT 1974 RESOURCES INADEQUATE WITHOUT BUDGETARY ADJUSTMENT OR SUPPLEMENT, AND STATED PREFERENCE FOR EARLY 1975 TO OVERCOME RESOURCES OBSTACLE.

7. SERIOUS CONCERN DEVELOPED IN STEERING GROUP, EXPRESSED OPENLY BY SEVERAL MEMBERS, OVER LACK OF FOCUS ON CLEAR ISSUES AFTER SUCH LENGTHY AND REPEATED CONSIDERATION, AGGRAVATED BY UNCLASSIFIED

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INDEFINITE SITUATION RE CST APPROVAL AND APPARENT INADEQUACY OF RESOURCES. MISSION ASSESSMENT IS THAT, IF FEB 21-22 MEETING DOES NOT PRODUCE A SUBSTANTIALLY IMPROVED DOCUMENT FOR PRESENTATION TO CST, THIS CONCERN WILL CRYSTALLIZE INTO QUESTIONING THE WISDOM OF PROCEEDING FURTHER. BROWN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMITTEE MEETINGS, COMPUTERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974OECDP03476
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: OECD PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740245/aaaabqnj.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION SCI
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: : (A) STATE 021982; (B) DAS/SPR/73.1, 05; (C) SPT/M(73)2
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 FEB 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 FEB 2002 by elbezejf>; APPROVED <29 NOV 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OECD COMPUTER UTILIZATION GROUP (CUG): MEETING OF STEERING GROUP FOR CONFERENCE ON COMPUTER/COMMUNICATIONS POLICY
TAGS: TPHY, OECD
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005